

Message Text

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CINCPAC HONOLULU

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FOR: IBS IOR IPS, CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

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SUBJECT: S.A.L.T. TALKS MEDIA REACTION

1. IN THE CHRISTCHURCH "PRESS" APRIL 27, 1978 THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THEIR SECOND EDITORIAL:

2. "THE MOSCOW TALKS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ON LIMITING NUCLEAR ARMS APPEAR TO HAVE GONE REASONABLY WELL. THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE (MR VANCE) CAME AWAY FROM MOSCOW UNCOMMUNICATIVE BUT CHEERFUL. THE SOVIET NEGOTIATORS, THE FOREIGN MINISTER (MR GROMYKO) AND PRESIDENT BREZHNEV, ARE NOT USUALLY GIVEN TO PROVIDING DETAILS OF TALKS AND SO THE WORLD WILL HAVE TO WAIT TO FIND OUT WHAT HAS BEEN AGREED.

3. "IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PROGRESS BE MADE TOWARDS LIMITING NUCLEAR ARMS FOR TWO REASONS: ONE IS THAT THERE ARE ALREADY ENOUGH WEAPONS HELD BY THE TWO SIDES TO BLOW UP EVERY CENTRE OF POPULATION IN THE WORLD AND THAT FURTHER PRODUCTION MUST INCREASE THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR; THE OTHER IS THAT THE PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS FRIGHTENINGLY UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPENSIVE AND THAT THE WORLD HAS MANY NEEDS TO WHICH RESOURCES NOW DEVOTED TO DEFENCE COULD BE SWITCHED.

4. "THE IMMEDIATE PURPOSE OF THE MOSCOW TALKS WAS TO START PROGRESS AGAIN TOWARDS A TREATY WHICH WOULD BE KNOWN AS S.A.L.T. 2. CRUISE MISSILES, LASER WEAPONS TO ATTACK SURVEILLANCE SATELLITES, IMPROVED ACCURACY OF MISSILES,

AND THE REPLACEMENT OF MISSILES HAVE ALL COMPLICATED THE ISSUE.

5. "SUSPICION AND MISUNDERSTANDING HAVE ALSO MADE AGREEMENT DIFFICULT. FOR A CONSIDERABLE TIME THE SOVIET UNION CLEARLY DID NOT UNDERSTAND PRESIDENT CARTER. FOR ITS PART THE UNITED STATES FOUND THAT THE SOVIET UNION'S INTERPRETATION OF DETENTE WAS NOT WHAT THE UNITED STATES UNDERSTOOD BY THE TERM.

6. "WHAT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IS WHETHER THE SOVIET UNION MAKES ANY REAL CONCESSIONS ON STRATEGIC ARMS. PRESIDENT CARTER CANCELLED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE B1 BOMBER AND HAS RECENTLY POSTPONED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEUTRON BOMB. THE SOVIET UNION HAS SHOWN NO WILLINGNESS TO LIMIT THE NUMBERS OF THE BACKFIRE BOMBER NOR TO LIMIT THE DEPLOYMENT OF ITS NEW SS18 MISSILES, WHICH ARE THE LARGEST KNOWN INTERCONTINENTAL BALLASTIC MISSILES. NO-ONE EXPECTS GOOD WILL IN ESTABLISHING A BALANCE OF TERROR, YET A SENSE OF VERIFIABLE FAIRNESS IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WHOLE WORLD, NOT JUST THE INTERESTS OF THE SUPER-POWERS." ANDERSON

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